



# STUDIES

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## NEW ITEMS ON THE NORTH CAROLINA BIRTH CERTIFICATE 1988-1989

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### ABSTRACT

In 1988 a new birth certificate form was implemented in North Carolina. Many new items were added and some questions revised to elicit better information on demographic, behavioral, and medical factors influencing fertility and pregnancy outcomes. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the new items on the birth certificate, pointing to some of their uses and limitations. An illustrative analysis of the new data is also presented—the correlation of maternal smoking during pregnancy with the incidence of low birthweight. The recent enhancement of the birth certificate should provide better data for planning and evaluating maternal and child health programs.